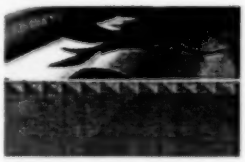

News Release Communiqué

2-2840

CANADA'S NEW GOVERNMENT SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH SIEMENS TO INCREASE ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

SASKATOON (January 24, 2007) – Rod Bruinooge, Parliamentary Secretary to the Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, and Frank Suraci, Director of the Aboriginal Sector at Siemens Canada Limited, on behalf of President and CEO Guenther Scholz, today signed an agreement to work together on the development of a partnership for Aboriginal employment.

"Canada's New Government is proud to sign an Aboriginal Workplace Partnership agreement with Siemens Canada, which will recruit, retain and promote Aboriginal employees," said Parliamentary Secretary Bruinooge. "By partnering with Siemens, we will be providing opportunities for Aboriginal people to enter careers in business, science and the skilled trades."

The parties agree to work together to generate opportunities that can provide mutual benefits for Aboriginal people, the Government of Canada and Siemens Canada. They will focus on identifying and working to eliminate barriers in the workplace that limit Aboriginal employment opportunities, and supporting career and business development projects for Aboriginal youth.

"Our strategy considers not only the technologies required for clean water, health care, telehealth and wireless connectivity, but also requires Siemens to build local capacities to maintain and operate these systems," said Mr. Scholz. "We are committed to developing infrastructure that fosters employment, economic development and community growth."

Today's signing took place at the National Symposium on Aboriginal Economic Development, hosted by the Province of Saskatchewan, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the Clarence Campeau Development Fund. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada is also a member of the Saskatchewan Government Working Group that organized the event, whose theme is "Excellence in Action: Best Practices in First Nation, Métis and Inuit Economic Development."

The Government of Canada, through the Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiative (AWPI), promotes employment partnership agreements throughout the country. AWPI is part of the federal government's commitment to help

Aboriginal people build stronger, healthier and more self-reliant communities by increasing their participation in the labour market.

Siemens is one of the largest and most diversified companies in the world, providing innovations in areas such as automation and control, power, transportation, medical, information and communications, and lighting. In Canada, Siemens is headquartered in Mississauga, Ont., with more than 7,500 employees located in 76 offices and seven major manufacturing facilities.

For more information, please contact:

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Media Relations
(819) 953-1160

Backgrounder - Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiative

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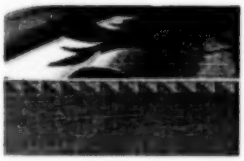

BACKGROUNDER

ABORIGINAL WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION INITIATIVE

A partnership initiative of the Government of Canada, the Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiative (AWPI) is committed to increasing the participation of Aboriginal peoples in the labour market. Initially launched in 1991, AWPI's mandate was renewed and enhanced in 1996.

AWPI's goal is to educate and inform employers about the advantages of hiring Aboriginal peoples.

AWPI strives to raise awareness of Aboriginal employment issues; enhance the capacity of employers to recruit, promote and retain Aboriginal employees; and promote information-sharing and networking among stakeholders.

AWPI recognizes that Aboriginal employment is a complex issue, requiring a flexible approach.

AWPI supports a wide variety of activities to assist those committed to Aboriginal employment. These activities can be easily tailored to meet specific needs.

For more information on AWPI, visit the Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiative website at or call the Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiative at (819) 994-5924.

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